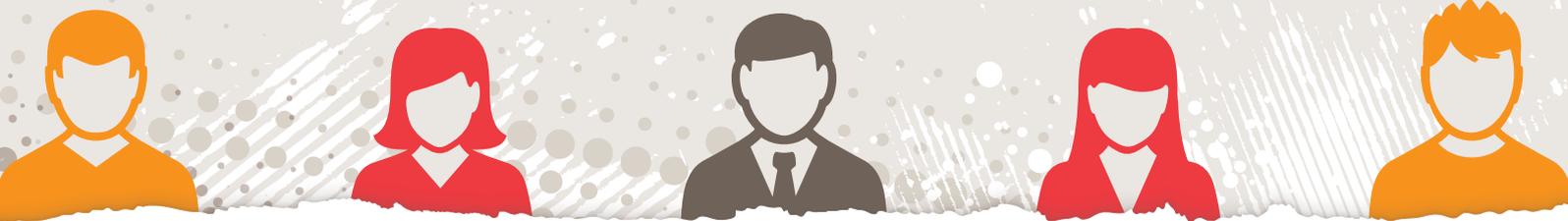


Student Work Provision

[fusion]



This resource will help in starting up or developing student ministry. You can also gain free access to Student Linkup, a great way of connecting with students arriving in your area



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Introduction

Fusion is passionate about local church and the part that it can play in reaching the students of the UK. We work with churches to help them to connect with students and to disciple and release them to be missionaries into their universities. We believe that every church near a university has a part to play in student mission.

This booklet has been written to help you as you start out in student mission or further expand your work if you are already actively involved in student ministry. It will explain the current landscape of the student world and give you ideas for connecting with students and starting student work in your corps/church. As Salvation Army churches you have a unique place in a city or town and will attract a unique set of students – those who have been brought up in Salvation Army churches, those from other church backgrounds and those with no church background at all.

We also want to introduce you to Student Linkup, Fusion's free service that connects students with church and church with students. To access Student Linkup, a local church signs up as a Fusion Connection Church.

They can then log in to the Fusion website and contact a list of freshers coming to the university near them. They also get a church page on the Fusion website and Student Linkup app that advertises them as a student-friendly church. We want to shout about yourself to students, so I hope you will join us!

If your church is not yet a Fusion Connection Church, please visit fusion.uk.com/churches to find out more.

A PIONEERING MINISTRY

Students are unique in their living and working environment and in their culture. Church-based student work has only been shaped intentionally on a wide scale over the last 20 or so years.

Whilst best practice and popular forms are developing, there is still space to explore, experiment and be courageous in asking "How do we reach, disciple and release into missional lives each generation of university students?" You are entering a pioneering ministry.



1. Why Students?

There are currently 2.5 million university and college students in the UK (www.hesa.ac.uk). Anecdotally less than 1% of students can be accounted for in churches or other Christian groups on campus. They, along with the rest of the 18-35's, have been dubbed the 'Missing Generation' from the church.

University is a pivotal time in young peoples' lives. For many it's their first time away from home, making their own choices about what they do with their time, energy, money. They face new challenges and make decisions that affect the rest of their lives. This is a vital time for faith to grow and mature (or, often, to stagnate and fade) and for the foundations of adult discipleship to be laid. Unfortunately, 73% of young people who have grown up in church choose not to engage in Christian community whilst at university (www.cueproject.org.uk).

As with all transition stages in life, there is potential for disengagement from church alongside potential for growth. University life creates two transition stages close together. You start, and before you know it, three or four years have passed and life changes dramatically again upon graduation. As churches, we need to work hard to engage young adults through these transitions.

Student life is often advertised as the best years of your life but the reality can be very different. Often hidden behind the amazing opportunities, loneliness, mental health issues and deep personal battles can be raging. Recent research has suggested that mental health issues are twice as prevalent amongst students as in others of their age and that 33% of students have considered suicide. The Church is needed to bring the hope of Christ to this vulnerable people group, helping them to find freedom and hope.

Students are a key demographic in the UK because nearly all of our leaders pass through university or are taught by those that do. There are also a large number of future foreign leaders who come to be educated in the West. The culture of our universities has a huge influence on the future of our world. As Charles Habib Malik, a Lebanese philosopher and diplomat, put it, "This great western institution, the university, dominates the world today more than any other institution...No task is more crucial and urgent today than to examine the state of mind and spirit in the Western university."

Finally, students are a potent addition to any church family. Their youth, time, creativity, enthusiasm and leadership potential makes them a real gift to a church community. Some will go on to be church leaders, but even those who don't will shape the Church of tomorrow. Now is the time to make the most of learning from and with this dynamic group of disciples.

2. Why Church?

The Church has the mandate and a responsibility to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19) – that includes students!

For the last 100 years in the UK, student mission has been done customarily by parachurch organisations. Even up until 10 years ago it was quite normal for a church to be round the corner from a university and not have a vision to see students become part of their church. Fortunately that is no longer the case and Fusion is connected to over 1,000 churches in the UK who are proactive in welcoming students.

The local church is uniquely placed to reach students because it is rooted in the locality of the university, knows the history of the area and has spiritual authority over it. There is unlimited potential when churches get involved in student mission.

The church provides a holistic spiritual family – combining discipleship, mission and outreach, leadership growth opportunities and pastoral support. Churches are diverse with people of different ages, backgrounds and focuses that give students a broader view of what it means to follow Jesus and keeps them from navel gazing!

Church is at its best when the generations connect with each other, when wisdom and youthful energy combine and when we learn from each other. Students need the local church to welcome them, disciple them and to discover with them what it means to be a Christian adult in both their unique context and in the wider culture as they then step into the workplace.



"After completing my ALOVE Gap Year I went on to study Industrial Design at Loughborough University. Each Sunday I helped out at a soup kitchen run by the volunteering society from Loughborough University at The Salvation Army. We fed the homeless and those who were in need of food for whatever reason – students not included! After the morning meeting we would cook a meal such as spaghetti Bolognese, sausage casserole and even a roast dinner for Christmas. We would serve it up, have a chat with those that came along and clean up afterwards."

"It gave people a chance to have a meal and a chat, and come inside into the warmth for a few hours – especially important when it was very cold outside! It was the perfect opportunity to witness not only to those in need but also to the helpers, as many were not Christians. They were very inspirational because most were there just to give something back to their community."

Paul Hawkins

3. What Are Students Like?

If we are to work with and disciple students it's important to understand some of where they're coming from. An understanding of student culture and student identity can help us to connect well and understand those we're welcoming into our church family.

Sociologists have defined the current generation at university as Generation Y. Sometimes called the Millennials, they are those born in the 1980's and 90's. They grew up in relative stability with a growing economy and their parents had jobs for life with promotions.

As with every generation, there are generalisations made about their positive and negative traits. This next section will look at some of these traits and what this means for their discipleship.

COMMUNITY

Gen Y are incredibly community-minded. They place a high value on family and are pro-marriage. They are the result of higher levels of parental nurturing and encouragement. This focus on family means that church communities need to be like families, where students are generously welcomed and unconditionally loved. A key to discipleship is to share your lives, not just see students on Sundays or in meetings.

Students want to really get to know others and be involved in their lives, and they will be most influenced by those who let them do that – be that their hall mates, their sports team or their church.

They are a highly connected generation, with electronic media having a huge impact on the way they live their lives. Student workers need to be part of these online communities, communicate through them and understand, with a critical eye, their effect. Media and technology have had a huge influence on the worldview and values of Gen Y. Even for those brought up in church, the media has had a much greater impact than most of the Christian doctrine they have been exposed to.

Authenticity is another important Gen Y value. They build community through collaboration, transparency and openness. Authority also comes from personal authenticity, rather than just position. They respect leaders who are themselves, who have integrity and aren't putting on an act. What they see of church and individuals, both online and in person, needs to be consistent and authentic. They value relational leadership where leaders are not on a pedestal but are approachable and able to be their friends.

What Are Students Like?

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SPIRITUALITY

Gen Y are more spiritually aware than the previous generations. A recent article in the Daily Telegraph stated that 'teenagers and people in their early 20's emerged as less likely to reject prayer than their parents' generation'. Only 9% of 18- to 24-year-olds would never pray about anything compared to 17% of 50- to 60-year-olds.

For a lot of Gen Y, ethics is the new spirituality. They are passionate about justice, whether or not they have a faith. For Christian Gen Y'ers, justice is part of their holiness and they will value being challenged and will bring challenge around that area.

Gen Y aren't cynical but are optimistic and highly tolerant of other people's views and lifestyle choices. Their main goal in life is happiness for themselves and others and they are looking for a religion that helps with this goal.

They are described as having a 'make do and mend' approach to spirituality. Gen X had a 'pick and mix' approach, which implies an active searching. In contrast, Gen Y are quite happy with the bits of spirituality that they've got and are not actively looking to extend it. They are happy to talk about faith and are often interested in how others see the world, but they are not looking to shift their thinking.

This desire for happiness and a 'make do and mend' approach can lead to another major discipleship issue. Being a Christian doesn't automatically make you happy. God doesn't just fix our lives. As Christians, we still journey through the ups and downs of life, but we have a God who journeys with us through the good and the bad. What happens when life doesn't go as we expect or want? This generation needs a good theology of suffering to have a flourishing, lifelong faith that can cope with the realities of life. They need a theology that can be stretched so they don't walk away as soon as they find something that doesn't fit with their view of God.

There is also an interesting differentiation to be made between the concepts of guilt and shame for Gen Y. Guilt says "I've done something wrong", whereas shame says "There is something wrong – you aren't being the person you could be or ought to be". Guilt is about sin; shame is about identity.

Gen Y are more familiar with shame than guilt, yet our evangelism message still focuses on guilt rather than shame. We need to be speaking to their identity, showing them how God sees them, loves them and values them as our first message. Gen Y are mostly becoming Christians through friends who already know Jesus and live authentic lives in front of them. They need to see the difference that Jesus makes in our lives today, rather than just the promise of eternity.

What Are Students Like?

Student stories...

FINANCE

Gen Y are the first generation in 50 years who will not be better off than their parents. They are facing a financial challenge that previous generations have not had to face. Many couples with two good salaries are not able to afford houses until their mid 30's without help from family. Students are leaving university into a difficult job market with major debt after years of grants and highly subsidised tuition fees. This is a real shock to Gen Y who have been brought up through relative stability and have been told that anything is possible.

Gen Y watched their parents working long hours in jobs they didn't love. They respect what they have done but want more than that for themselves. They want the dream of working hard but for fewer hours and for enough money to do all the other things they want to do. For some of them that is a pipe dream but others are managing it. We need to help them set good expectations of what is possible and make good decisions for their future, understanding the consequences.

"When I moved to university I knew I wanted to carry on my Christian faith. My faith was grounded and I knew that it was important to link up with a group of believers who shared similar thoughts to me. However, I didn't know what shape this was going to take. I could have got to know the Christian Union and found out where they went to church, or attended one of the numerous church services on campus. However, having come from a Salvation Army church, I thought I should check out The Salvation Army in Canterbury. From my first encounter, I realised this was the church for me. I moved to Uni on the Saturday. I unpacked, the parents left and I was ready for 13 weeks away from home. That evening I met the others sharing my accommodation and the next morning I went down to The Salvation Army in town. As I entered I was warmly greeted by someone of a similar age to me who told me about the corps."



"Following the meeting, a number of other students and corps family came and not only said hello to me, but greeted me as if they knew already that I would be coming to their church for the next three years. I spoke to the corps officer and she asked for my details, telling me that she very much wanted me to be a part of the corps. I was soon told that lunch was being provided and, knowing my awful cooking situation in my new accommodation, this was a no brainer, especially as it was pizza on offer! I already felt part of the family just through the friendly chat and food. This friendliness then continued during the week with a student meal on Thursday night. This happened every week, and through those I met in the first few days I knew I didn't need to look anywhere else for church. With a few friendly smiles and the chance to socialise in the best way possible (through free food!) my university experience was already taking shape and The Salvation Army was to play another role in my life."

Luke Nunn

What Are Students Like?

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COMMITMENT

A common critique of Gen Y is their lack of commitment. They are seen to be people who either don't commit or drop out when they do. However, many observers believe this is not a lack of commitment, but a delay of the onset of adulthood. Due to a number of cultural causes, adulthood is beginning to be embraced later in life than in previous generations. Some researchers place it at around 21-25, but other studies place it as late as 28-30.

It is part of the Church's role to call students into adulthood. To help them connect individually with God, have a vision beyond themselves and to make good decisions. Encouraging them in their commitment is part of this, but there can be good reasons for a student's perceived lack of commitment. This generation is pulled in a number of different directions, with more options than ever before. It is important to have conversations about priorities and values rather than simply pushing them to turn up to things.

The goal is for them to have balanced lives, where they spend time with God, in Christian community and also connected to the world. This is not achieved by their always being in Christian meetings.

There is a dichotomy in Gen Y: although they like to be connected and value relationship, they can also be very individualistic and can seem selfish to older generations. Students sometimes need help to realise that their behaviour has an impact on the wider community – that their turning up makes a difference. They need to realise the potential they have and the local church is key in helping them realise this. Students can go from hardly turning up to being fully engaged simply because someone speaks into their life and believes in them.

At a basic level, discipleship is about enabling and encouraging people to be who they have been created to be. Gen Y are a dynamic generation with an entrepreneurial spirit but need help to engage fully and use what God has given them to shake up this world. They have been told that the world is their oyster, but what does that look like in their first job post-uni doing a basic job in an organisation they aren't passionate about?

A key discipleship lesson for Gen Y is summed up in this quote by Mother Theresa: 'Be faithful in the small things because it is in them that your strength lies.'

4. What Is Student Work?

What is church-based student work trying to do? It is beautifully summed up in Romans 12:1-2 (The Message):

'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.'

If every Christian student were living life like that, our universities would be transformed. To see this vision come to pass, there are a number of things we need to consider as we develop our student work. Whilst church-based student work is a relatively new ministry there are still some foundational elements that we've seen work really well. We would encourage you to consider these as foundations for building a healthy, thriving student work.

Student cell / Small groups

Whilst membership of the Body of Christ as a whole is a vital part of our lives as Christians, smaller groups provide a fertile context for accountability, pastoral support and personal growth. Small groups are also a really effective way to challenge each other and to engage in mission. We have seen that student cell groups are a fantastic way to disciple students, challenge them and release them into missional lives and to create opportunities for student leadership.

What Is Student Work?

Mentoring

We all have aspects of our character that are to be encouraged, honed and given space to grow and thrive. We also have aspects of our character that hinder us in our relationship with God and are contrary to God's call on our lives. One-to-one mentoring is a relationship in which an individual can find encouragement, challenge and accountability in growing in their gifts and becoming free from the things that hold back their discipleship. This connects students with the wider church body and often releases older generations to be proactive in their own discipleship and leadership.

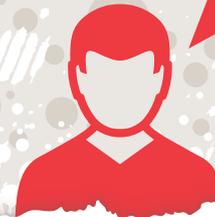
Releasing student leadership

Gen Y are craving development and opportunity and it is important to consider what development opportunities you can offer students within your church. If students are treated as people without much to contribute or as guests, they will see themselves in the same way and probably move on.

Their leadership potential can be well hidden, especially with the spirit of consumerism that is so rife in our culture and even our churches. It can be easier to simply welcome them into your church community, feed them lots of food and give them a safe place to hide away from the craziness of student life. In contrast, releasing them into leadership can be a risk and requires time and strategy.



God sees huge potential in Gen Y and the Church has a part to play in raising up this generation of leaders who will be led by God and not by their culture.



What Is Student Work?

Creating missional opportunities

Universities are a unique place and models of mission need to be specific to the context. It is also a unique time for the students themselves. It might be the only time in their lives that they live, eat, work and play with non-Christians.

If we don't encourage them and release them to live missionally we are missing a MASSIVE opportunity. They need encouragement to engage with their student community in a way that brings in the Kingdom of God and sees other students come to know Jesus.

We want students to love their universities, serve those they're living and working alongside and share the message of Jesus with those who are hungry to hear it.

Fusion's campaign 'loveyouruni' is a call to students to do just that! Whether it's challenging students to be involved in Student Union societies, running Alpha courses or helping students organise things that they can invite their friends to, creating opportunities and stimuli to keep your students thinking missionally is a key foundation to establish.

This takes a lot of focus, envisioning, equipping, releasing, storytelling – we could go on! It is something we cannot stop talking about and bringing in as part of our Church culture. As we send our students out we also need to be ready to welcome those who respond! Students are often very open to the gospel, especially in their first year of university. You may find that as your students step out in faith others do actually respond.

For more on this, get a copy of 'Living Mission' by Rich Wilson and Miriam Swaffield. Available at www.fusion.uk.com/resources

What Is Student Work?

THE STUDENT WORKER

Church-based student work is normally co-ordinated by someone with the role of 'student worker'. This person could be employed by a church full-time, part-time or do the role in a voluntary capacity.

A student worker makes a commitment to work within a local church and works towards:

- *Developing strategy and a timetable or programme for the year*
- *Building community*
- *Overseeing small groups*
- *Facilitating mission ideas and growth*
- *Developing leaders and building a team of people to lead the student ministry – can be made up of students and non-students*
- *Meeting with student leaders to bring encouragement and training and to develop relationships*
- *Helping to get the mindset of student mission into the fabric of church life and leadership. Interface between church congregation and students*
- *Keeping connection with youth workers, especially in terms of preparing youth for university*

5. How Do You Connect With Students?

One of the first challenges in student work is that of finding and connecting with students as soon as possible after they arrive at your local uni. It's a crucial part of building your student work and in seeing the Kingdom of God released in the lives of both Christian and non-Christian students as soon as possible. There are thousands of un-churched students to connect with who arrive at uni unsure of themselves and in need of God's love.

Preparation is key, each year, before the students return. This section aims to cover some essential areas to consider in preparing for freshers week. We recognise that the planning process depends on available resources, the size of the student work and the scale of the first term's activities.

Most student work starts small and grows steadily due to ongoing investment. We hope that the suggestions here provide useful ideas, create some markers for growth and give some things to aim for.

PEOPLE

A team is a great asset in preparing for freshers term. The scale of activities will determine who is needed and when. A pre-term push with student team members and volunteers creates much more ownership for building church and student mission during term time. The sort of people to attract into the planning process are those with energy and enthusiasm and people who are diligent, have plenty of initiative and often can administrate. A student worker who is overseeing the process, as with other areas of student work, will need to try and facilitate others in their gifting whilst recognising some jobs just need doing.

Delegating to ensure it doesn't all fall to one person and setting clear objectives early on will save a lot of last-minute panic.

The first elements of the planning process need to be thought about in May/June, and this is a good time to draw together a team from existing students and other volunteers who want to be involved.



Your team can then get together and ask the questions 'What might this look like for us?' and 'What do we need to do?' in relation to the following topics.

How Do You Connect With Students?

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1. WEBSITE

The web is becoming the number one medium for students and graduates finding a church community when they move to new locations. Our experience is that students and prospective students are looking all year round for churches they can relate to.

How can your church website be best used to attract, educate and inform new students about your church?

Here is what we suggest is essential information:

- *To have a web presence for your church*
- *Have a clear front page link to the student page(s)*
- *Keep the student content concise, informative, personal and interesting*
- *Effectively present what the church is doing*
- *Use pictures of people and particularly any of those responsible for student work*
- *Make sure it is easy to contact student representatives*
- *Have the site optimised for search engines*

As the student work grows, here are some other aspects that can be added that reflect the church's student community online:

- *Student events calendar*
- *Blogs, personality and humour etc*
- *Student contributions through articles, blogs and reviews*
- *Talks online for students outside of term time and on sandwich years*
- *Regular emails to students*

How Do You Connect With Students?

2. COMMUNICATION

Communication is so important for attracting, connecting and integrating new students into the church. Therefore, the language, presentation and medium for communication need to be carefully thought about. The next few points will focus mainly on words as the following section on publicity is an extension of our communication and uses more pictures and visuals.

Ongoing communication

For an increasing number of Christian students, as soon as they know where they are studying they are looking for a church.

For some the deciding factor of where to study is decided by there being a church they can relate to. Think about how you describe your church – is it accurate, will it help a student understand what to expect from being part of your community?

The 'right person'

For continuity and clarity within the church and outside, we recommend appointing one person to oversee all new student communication; they could be the student worker or a 'new student co-ordinator'. They are the first point of contact for new students and can direct them towards gatherings. They take responsibility for all enquiries, Student Linkups and freshers fairs follow-up. This specific role requires someone who is warm, friendly, approachable, has good social skills, a good memory for names and is organised. There needs to be a clear pathway on your website that connects the enquirer with the right person.

How Do You Connect With Students?

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3. STUDENT LINKUP

Every year Fusion pass on the contact details of freshers that have been gathered from churches, festivals and online to Fusion Connection Churches.

If your church isn't connected yet, go to **www.fusion.uk.com/churches**. It will give you access to all of our resources, including Student Linkup and training for your student team, as well as a church page on our website advertising you as a student-friendly church.

Here are some suggestions for how to follow up these linkups.

- *Contact the people coming to your town/city!*
- *Be encouraging and welcoming*
- *Invite them to key events that are happening in the first few weeks of term – student gatherings, Sunday lunches*
- *Feel free to offer to go for coffee or a meal with them as well as inviting them to church*
- *Speak well of other churches in your town – aim to help them find the best church for them*
- *Please don't hound the students!*
- *Search for the Student Linkup app in the Android Play store and iPhone app store*



See the appendix for further top tips on using Student Linkup well.

How Do You Connect With Students?

4. ADVERTISING

Larger student works will almost certainly have written publicity. However, whatever your size, it is recommended you find ways for communicating who you are in a way that helps create the right impression. Today's students are looking for something memorable, innovative and of high quality – we have to compete with the bombardment of advertising that is all around them, not to mention the countless offers students will receive from clubs, societies, banks and takeaways! At the same time you want to make sure that what you are handing out truthfully represents who you are – giving out a flashy leaflet that suggests you have an all-singing all-dancing club-style service may attract people originally, but if it's not an accurate representation of who you are, then they're unlikely to stay if you've not been authentic in your communication.

Welcome packs

If you do nothing else, the most essential piece of publicity is a student welcome pack that can be given out at freshers fairs, to student linkups or to students attending a church gathering for the first time. Many churches now send these to students before they arrive. A student welcome pack can include information on the vision, values and life of the church, the key student contacts and how to be involved. A pen and some sweets always go down well, but more ambitious packs could include a DVD with talks, books, Fuse magazine, Fusion resources or even a packet of spaghetti or baked beans!

Other publicity ideas

- *Pay for a place in the freshers fair*
- *Dress-up for a publicity stunt. Wear specially designed T-shirts*
- *Place a banner ad on the Student Union website*
- *Have sweets / welcome gifts for students as they arrive in halls of residence*
- *Help people move into halls and flats through carrying bags*
- *Be listed on the chaplaincy or CU church search*

How Do You Connect With Students?

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5. EVENTS

Well-planned, highly organised events create a much better impression than last-minute, disorganised gatherings. Any number of events can be planned over the summer for the first term so long as they can be delivered well. With each event it is important to think through the objectives that each one needs to fulfil, who you're looking to attract to them (new Christian students, new non-Christian students, non-Christian friends of current students), the timescales, resources and logistics involved.

One way you can plan these events is to gather together extra students over the summer. Different roles and responsibilities can then be delegated. Below are a number of possible events that require various levels of planning.

Freshers fairs

Objective: To connect with as many new students as possible:

- *Book a place in May/June (this will probably include a financial cost)*
- *Plan stall and publicity needs*
- *Use creative ideas that makes your pitch stand out from all the rest, such as a candyfloss or popcorn maker, lighting, gimmicks*
- *Consider what message you want to communicate to each fresher – is it 'Come to our church', 'Come on an Alpha course', 'Get involved in our outreach work'?*

Alpha launch event

Objective: To create easy access to sign up to an Alpha course:

- *Book a venue – where would students feel comfortable?*
- *Plan the event creatively – what would students come to?*
- *Plan your publicity – how will you let students know about it? Will you use current students to bring friends / partner with other churches / leaflet local student streets?*

How Do You Connect With Students?

Welcome meals

Objective: To create a relaxed environment for church integration. Many Salvation Army corps have been doing this well for years, but for some this could be a new venture:

- *Sign up families who are happy to host – these are best done in someone's home*
- *Alternatively, you could do drinks or free meals after church with a presentation about the church*
- *Dinner dates is a way for students connecting with church members throughout the first term*
- *Why not encourage students to invite housemates as well?*

Serving-based freshers week activities

Objective: To serve new students and to connect with as many students as possible.
For example:

- *Hand out water bottles outside the busy student clubs, patrol the streets in teams looking out for people in need and give out flip-flops to girls whose shoes have broken (NB: for this you will need to give some training to your team in terms of caring for vulnerable people and appropriate levels of support etc)*
- *Bag-pack at your local supermarket and chat to the students as they buy their first big shops with their parents. You could ask permission to give out welcome packs to every student who comes through*

Good questions to ask yourself when choosing which activities to put on are 'What are we like as a church? What are we really good at? How can we use that to serve and connect with students?' – but also 'What might be a new thing which is out of our comfort zone that we might do for the sake of students?'

6. What Resources And Support Are Available To Me?

This may all seem a little overwhelming. Hopefully it's encouraging and exciting! As we said before, student ministry is a specialist field and it requires support, attention and resourcing. Fusion exists to do just that – to support, resource and equip you. Following are some of the resources available to you through Fusion.

Resonate days

These are termly gatherings of student workers and their teams from across the UK. It's a chance for specific student work training, to meet others leading similar ministries and to share ideas and best practice together. Whether employed or voluntary, all are welcome. If you're a Fusion Connection Church this is free for you and your team, so do take advantage of these!

The Student Work Conference

Finally, our annual conference is an opportunity to get together for a more intensive time of teaching, training, networking, prayer and worship. This is a great way to kick off every academic year with your team, getting refocused, re-energised and ready to start the year with some freshly nicked ideas from the other teams!



More information about our training events at www.fusion.uk.com/forstudentworkers

What Resources And Support Are Available To Me?

Resources

Fusion has a number of resources that are designed to help you in your student work:

- **Living Mission** is a manifesto for student mission, exploring what church-based student mission looks like – a MUST for every student worker!
- **Studentscape** is a 13-session discipleship resource which can be a great way to kick off new student cell groups or mentoring, giving you just over a term of material to get them started on

- **Stuff of Life** is another for you – a handbook on mental and relational health. This equips you to support those who are struggling, which so many of today's students are

There are other great resources available on the Fusion website at www.fusion.uk.com/hello/resources

The Fusion Team

As mentioned above, the Fusion team are here to support you in your student work. You can find our contact details at www.fusion.uk.com/hello/who-we-are/team. We would love to hear from you!

In his strength

It's a great privilege to support student workers. We know the potential when a dedicated individual commits to loving, supporting, challenging and discipling this generation. Thank you for considering this opportunity. We pray that God will strengthen and equip you for all that lies ahead, that he'll use you, just as you are, to bless the students of your town or city and bring glory to him as you see those before you transformed.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' (Romans 15:13 NIV).

What Resources And Support Are Available To Me?

APPENDIX

Top tips for using Student Linkup

- 1.** After you sign up as a Fusion Connection Church your Fusion Contact will get an email every time someone who is coming to your local area signs up to Student Linkup. This gives you an opportunity to contact them straight away, whilst they are thinking about joining a church. We encourage you to get in touch with as many of the students as possible before freshers week to avoid colliding with hundreds of other distractions.
- 2.** There are two ways to contact freshers via Student Linkup: by sending individual messages and by broadcasting to every student coming to your area. You can send individual messages as often as you like but you can only broadcast to the whole group once a week.

3. Be careful not to bombard an individual with too many messages. Remember that there will be other local churches in contact as well. We want the students to feel valued and welcomed as individuals, but not overwhelmed.

4. Ask a question in your individual messages – for example, 'Are you around on Wednesday for a coffee in the Student Union bar?' Information emails will get fewer responses than those that open up a conversation.

5. Send regular group messages for the first few months to keep them updated, even if they don't come along. You may feel like you're giving a 'hard sell' for your church, but just be authentic about what you feel your community is about and students will eventually find where they belong.

6. Many students don't settle in a church straight away. It's a good idea to send individual messages to all the linkups in January saying, 'Have you settled in a church yet? If so, fantastic – if not, do you fancy a coffee?'

7. Finally, remember that students who haven't been brought up in Salvation Army churches might need certain terminology and practices explained.

Contact

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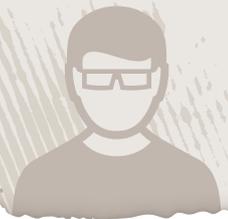
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